



## INDIGENOUS CLEAN ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES ELECTRICITY TABLE ADVISORY GROUP (“ETAG”) MEETING

November 28, 2022, 2:00 – 4:05 PM,

Salon E, Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront, 1133 W Hastings St., Vancouver BC

### MEETING ATTENDEES

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**ETAG Members:** Dr. Judith Sayers (President, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council), Harvey McLeod (Chief, Upper Nicola Band), Trent Moraes (Deputy Chief Councillor, Skidegate Band Council [Virtual]), Russell Myers Ross (Advisor, Yunesit'in Government [Virtual]), Maureen Daschuk (BC Hydro), Doug Slater (FortisBC), Jeremy Cairns (BC Utilities Commission), Paul Wieringa (Energy Policy Consultant)

**BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC):** Cole Kwatuuma Sayers, Crystal Dixon, Sarah Ozog

**Ministry of Energy Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI):** Les MacLaren, Annika van Roy, Morgan Chandler, Keerit Jutla [Virtual], Oswald Dias [Virtual]

**Facilitation:** Lloyd Roberts (Castlemain, Facilitator), Michelle Buchholz (Cassyex Consulting, Graphic Recorder)

### MEETING SUMMARY

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The Electricity Table Advisory Group (ETAG) met for the first time on November 28, 2022 in a hybrid format to gain a common understanding of ETAG's purpose, ratify the Terms of Reference, and confirm next steps for this group. The meeting began with an acknowledgement of the territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations on which the meeting was held and an opening prayer by Chief Harvey McLeod. Michelle Buchholz from the Wet'suwet'en territory was introduced and described her process of capturing the conversations and information shared at this table in a graphic recording.

### Opening Comments and Introductions

EMLI Assistant Deputy Minister (Electricity and Alternative Energy) Les MacLaren opened the discussion recognizing the importance of a transition to a low carbon economy. Regrets that Dave Porter was unable to attend this meeting. Each member of ETAG introduced themselves, their background and connection with clean energy. There was consensus amongst the table on the need for government to pace themselves with the speed at which Indigenous communities are moving to ensure engagement is sufficient and decisions are being made collaboratively.

### ETAG Overview, Purpose, & TOR

*Co-leads Cole Sayers (FNEMC) and Annika van Roy (EMLI):*

The Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities (ICEO) engagement is described in section 4.43 in the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) Action Plan. The Ministry of Energy Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) is to co-develop recommendations on strategic policies and initiatives for clean and sustainable energy with Indigenous partners. Workshops held in March 2022 resulted in the creation three Engagement Tables Hydrogen and Renewable Natural Gas Market Opportunities Table, Electricity Table, and Legislative Standing Table.

The Electricity Table Advisory Group has been gathered to provide subject matter expertise on the electricity sector and advise on engagement for the Electricity Table. The initial year is intended to build knowledge and

capacity through presentations and establish a common understanding of the electricity sector amongst the communities. Year two will involve sub-tables to engage in substantive policy discussions on priority electricity topics. Members will be asked to identify key areas of focus, or specific questions to inform activities that the Electricity Table could undertake. This information will be used to assist the ICEO Primary Working Group to develop a workplan of issues to be addressed and associated deliverables for the upcoming year.

## Discussion

**Question:** There is concern on the length of time it takes for the legislative process to progress.

**Response:** EMLI invites ETAG to offer concrete recommendations on regulatory or legislative change. As a group the group should be well positioned to move recommendations forward.

**Question:** What are the legislative changes being proposed?

**Response:** EMLI is working with multiple areas involved in Clean Energy legislative or regulatory changes and is seeking to update and share with this group, as well as post on the ICEO website. One current regulatory change underway is to increase the stringency of the low carbon fuels standard, which will require fuel suppliers to lower the carbon intensity of the fuels they sell. Regulation is expected to go through in December. The other change is the administrative penalty for non-compliance with the Act. Additional expected changes are to do with the greenhouse gas reduction regulation.

**Question:** How do we engage other organizations outside of FNLC and FNEMC? Where do groups like the Remote Communities Working Group fit within how UNDRIP and how it applies to clean energy?

**Response:** It will be important to ensure alignment with both groups. It may look like EMLI tackling this internally or more formal linkage between the two groups.

**Question:** How can we ensure organizations that represent multiple First Nations also receive information on initiatives?

**Response:** The Ministry attempts to send to organizations as well as First Nations, but we should be working to identify gaps to ensure effective engagement.

**Question:** How will indigenous communities receive more support to understand what opportunities exist?

**Response:** This group is intended to advise on how to best engage with nations. The first year will be focused on building knowledge through engagement, providing information to rightsholders and community members.

**Question:** Is there a role for shared decision-making in the electricity sector?

**Response:** Electricity is one part of BC's energy system. Low carbon fuels, energy efficiency, affordability are also objectives. These are all part of the overall decarbonization that will be required for our energy system. Consultation across the province from EMLI, FortisBC, and BC Hydro will be part of the process, paramount is raising awareness at this table, and amongst nations on energy opportunities so that information can be relayed to decision makers as they make choices in legislation informed by community need.

## Decisions

1. ETAG members approved proposed amendments to paragraph 2.b and ETAG membership term (as referred to in the Actions section below).
2. ETAG members approved the draft terms of reference as amended.

## Actions

1. **FNEMC:** Follow up with Fortis on Hydrogen initiative.
2. **EMLI/FNEMC:** Explore processes for information sharing and coordination between ETAG and the Remote Communities Initiative and report back at an upcoming ETAG meeting.

3. **EMLI/FNEMC:** Update the draft terms of reference by making the following changes:
  - I. paragraph 2.b – add identification of potential recommendations to address barriers and,
  - II. amend the term of ETAG members for year 1 to end on December 31, 2023.